

---

Government of the District of Columbia



**Office of the Deputy Mayor for Public Safety  
and Justice**

---

Testimony of  
**Edward D. Reiskin**  
Deputy Mayor for Public Safety and Justice

***“Office of the Deputy Mayor for Public Safety and  
Justice Fiscal Year 2006 Budget Request”***

Committee on the Judiciary  
Phil Mendelson, Chair  
Council of the District of Columbia

April 12, 2005

Room 500  
John A. Wilson Building  
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20004  
11:00 A.M.

---

Good Morning Chairperson Mendelson and members of the Judiciary Committee. My name is Edward Reiskin and I am the Deputy Mayor for Public Safety and Justice. This testimony serves as my full written statement for the record. The Office of the Deputy Mayor for Public Safety and Justice is responsible for providing oversight and support to the public safety agencies to carry out the policy direction established by the Mayor and the Council.

I also manage my own office, which includes my staff and the offices of Homeland Security, Victims Services, and Justice Grants. For FY 2006, my office has a proposed budget of \$97 million dollars and 29 FTEs. Of this amount, roughly one-half million represents local funds, the balance being federal and Special Purpose Revenue funds. The most significant changes from the FY 2005 budget are a decrease in Special Purpose Revenue funds due to a decline of \$7,598,625 in Victims of Crime Assistance funds and a decrease of \$10,618,340 in federal funds for Victim Services, Justice Grants Administration and Reentry. We anticipate an increase of \$12,031,075 in federal Homeland Security grant funds.

The resource commitments in each Activity area vary significantly in FY06. I would like to discuss priorities and other major issues in each area briefly.

#### **I. Agency Oversight and Support**

As you know, the role of every Deputy Mayor includes working with agencies to set their agency-specific priorities consistent with Mayor Williams's vision and commitments to the city. The Mayor's priorities are established by the Citywide Strategic Plan, and the Deputy Mayors are charged with ensuring that those priorities are given greater specificity, carried into the agency Strategic Business Plans, budgeted for at the activity or service level, and measured in their monthly performance reports. My office is charged with performance oversight of six agencies: the Metropolitan Police Department, the Fire and Emergency Medical Services Department, the Office of Unified Communications, the Emergency Management Agency, and the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner.

Working with the Chiefs and Directors, my office establishes and monitors the key performance result measures that are intended to quantify and capture each agency's actual progress towards their high level outcome goals. I am also responsible for resolving significant operational priorities or obstacles agencies may face. In the context of the FY 2006 proposed budget, I would like to outline some of the more significant issues in the public safety cluster, how we are progressing with them, and how the FY 2006 budget is responsive.

#### **A. Metropolitan Police Department (MPD)**

Throughout FY 2006 the Metropolitan Police Department (MPD) will continue to transform its workforce and free up police resources through ongoing civilianization as well gearing up to adopt several new initiatives. MPD's ability to respond to all corners of the District's public safety needs will be enhanced in FY 2006 when the Department assumes responsibilities for three additional law enforcement and security functions. Starting in the current fiscal year, MPD will assume management of security provided to District government buildings, with the transfer of the Protective Services Division of the Office of Property Management and of school security with the transfer of the security contract from the DC Public Schools. Starting in FY 2006, MPD will assume the management of housing authority security,

as proposed in Title III of the Budget Support Act of 2005. The Mayor has proposed allocating \$4 million in additional community investment funding for the Housing Authority police transfer. This funding would replace the loss of federal funding for the Authority's police, and would be supplemented by a \$3.6 million transfer from the Housing Authority.

The Mayor has proposed reducing MPD's overtime budget in FY 2006 by \$3 million. The City Administrator commissioned a two-part study of MPD overtime to identify areas for improvement and provide recommendations on how to restructure overtime. One major source of overtime is the length of time sworn personnel spend in court. I have initiated discussions on this issue with the Office of the Attorney General, our federal partners, and the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council to determine with MPD how to best reduce this source of overtime. I will be working with all stakeholders during the next six months to implement changes necessary to ensure MPD can meet its FY 2006 overtime budget without compromising the safety and security of the District.

Because of the investments the Mayor and the Council have made in MPD in FY04 and FY 2005, we are seeing significant improvements in our crime statistics. Utilizing budget resources and strong community partnerships, MPD has achieved several major accomplishments in its crime reduction initiatives with the successful first year of the Hot Spots initiative and the continuing decline in overall crimes. One of MPD's most significant achievements was reaching its goal of having 3,800 sworn officers in September 2004.

In 2004, overall crime decreased by 17.9 percent compared to the previous year. The number of serious crimes fell by 11.5 percent compared to 2003; this decline follows a 9 percent decrease between 2002 and 2003. The District also saw a decrease of 20 percent in homicides and recorded fewer than 200 murders in one year for the first time in almost two decades. In 2004 sexual assaults declined by 30 percent and property crimes by 11 percent. The first year of the Hot Spots Initiative has resulted in significant improvements in the safety of the targeted areas. The fourteen Hot Spots saw a 22 percent decline in overall crime during the first twelve months of the initiative, including a 34 percent fall in violent crime.

Last year my predecessor testified on the joint effort of the Committee and the Administration to address disability issues in MPD. The Department needed the ability to hire more full-duty officers to replace sworn members who are injured or unable to maintain full duty status for extended periods. In June 2004, the Mayor signed the Omnibus Public Safety Agency Reform Amendment Act that grants MPD the ability to move limited-duty disabled officers to retirement and to hire more full-duty officers. In addition, MPD now can more easily hire experienced retired detectives to assist with homicide investigations. Over the last year, by aggressively managing members on extended sick leave and limited duty, MPD returned sixty members to full duty over the past year.

## **B. Fire and Emergency Medical Services (FireEMS)**

The FY 2006 proposed budget for the Fire and Emergency Medical Services Department continues funding for initiatives designed to improve the Department's delivery of pre-hospital advanced life support service. This includes funding to upgrade all Basic Life Support EMTs to the EMT-Advanced level; to expand the number of advanced life support providers and dual-role cross-trained providers through training and recruitment; and to deploy twelve additional Paramedic Engine Companies by the end of FY 2006.

As you will hear from Chief Thompson later today, the aforementioned initiatives represent the department's steady focus on improving response times in FY 2006. The department will also improve response times in FY 2006 by filling vacancies through a streamlined hiring process. The success of this process will be measured by three specific personnel-related strategic result goals:

- FireEMS will average not more than 40 firefighter vacancies;
- FireEMS will average not more than 30 other personnel vacancies; and
- The hiring process time for 90 percent of all positions will be complete within 8 weeks, calculated from receipt of certification or ranking lists from the DC Office of Personnel.

In FY 2006, FireEMS continues its implementation of a multi-year capital program to modernize all of its stations by replacing the deteriorating structural, HVAC, plumbing, electrical, and architectural features at various station houses, among other projects. The Department's capital program includes \$19.7 million for new projects and \$104.1 million total for fiscal years 2006 through 2011. These projects represent the bricks and mortar in Mayor Williams' vision for stronger neighborhoods. One such project, Engine 22, will receive \$2.6 million in new funds in FY 2006 (\$5.5 million total) as additional funding for land acquisition along Georgia Avenue in Ward 4 for the construction of a new 15,000 square-foot fire station, the location of which is essential to maintaining proper response times.

Another project, the modernization of the Engine 21 fire station in Ward 1, will receive \$500,000 in FY 2006 and \$3.1 million total during the life of the project. FireEMS is also funded in FY 2006 for the continuance of its fire apparatus replacement schedule in compliance with current National Fire Protection Association guidelines, its asbestos abatement project to remove and dispose of asbestos-containing materials at various facilities, and a new five-year renovation project of the Department's EVOC Training Academy in Ward 8.

## **C. Department of Corrections (DOC)**

I would next like to take this opportunity to thank former Director Odie Washington for his significant contributions to the District and the Department during his six-year tenure. He has successfully overseen tremendous changes to Corrections, including the congressionally-mandated closing of the Correctional Complex in Lorton, Virginia ahead of schedule, the elimination of 33 years of court oversight and court orders, the termination of the 10-year-old class action lawsuit *Women Prisoners of DC v. District of Columbia*, and \$42 million in major capital and security improvements for the DC Jail.

We are actively recruiting for a new Director to lead the department. The Office of Personnel has developed and posted a job announcement and has targeted national corrections

organizations to identify and inform potential candidates. We should soon have a list of candidates with basic background research done. I will work with Personnel and this Committee to establish a review panel of various stakeholders to assist in the recommendation of a candidate to the Mayor.

The new Director will focus on continued implementation of the Jail Improvement Act of 2003. One of the most critical provisions is the determination of a population cap at the DC Jail. Specifically, the legislation requires that the Mayor establish a cap as determined by an independent consultant, charged with determining “the maximum number of inmates that can be housed at any one time within the Central Detention Facility based upon physical capacity, programming, classification system, and housing plan of the Central Detention Facility.”

As you are well aware, the Department of Corrections commissioned Pulitzer/Bogard & Associates, LLC to make that determination. Last year, Pulitzer/Bogard recommended a range of “operational capacity” of 1,958 to 2,164. As I confirmed in a letter to you, Councilmember Mendelson, yesterday, we will establish the recommended operational capacity as a long term goal achieved through operational and process improvements.

I have also placed the issue of jail capacity on the agenda of the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council because we need to work closely with all of our federal partners to realize improvements that will lead to better population management. Moreover, we have already undertaken or will pursue actions to control the following factors that influence jail population: physical plant, length of stay, federal reimbursement, inmate release processes, alternative sentencing, and inmate programming.

I welcome the opportunity to work with the Council, community partners and advocates, and other stakeholders to improve this aspect of our criminal justice system. There are many improvements we can make that will relieve population pressures and improve the rehabilitative aspects of the system. I would like to offer that we collectively evaluate our progress by the end of this calendar year. At that point, we will have time to make adjustments in the FY 2007 budget, if warranted.

Turning to another important goal on the horizon, DOC has embarked on a path toward achieving American Corrections Association (ACA) accreditation by September 30, 2008. The FY 2006 budget for the Department of Corrections supports intermediate milestones toward accreditation. In FY 2006, DOC will submit its application for the ACA Pre-Accreditation Assessment Program. By the end of FY 2006, DOC will establish 100% of its policies, procedures, and business processes in compliance with ACA standards.

To accomplish these goals, the Department’s proposed FY 2006 operating budget includes new FTEs who will support DOC’s special education program (1 FTE), the Memorandum of Understanding with the US Marshals Service (27 FTEs), legal services (2 FTEs), the residential substance abuse treatment program (6 FTEs), and DOC’s recruitment and training program to attract and hire additional DOC staff (8 FTEs). DOC has not hired new correctional officers since 1998, and has maintained its current staff by recalling downsized officers from the Lorton closure as needed. This supply of dedicated former employees has been

exhausted and this funding increase will reestablish a crucial recruiting division to replace retiring employees.

On the non-personal services side, the proposed FY 2006 operating budget will allow for new uniforms, uniform replacement, and uniform maintenance for DOC staff. Uniforms have not been supported in the agency's budget since 1999 and were previously provided through inmate labor at the Lorton facility. As a result, staff uniforms are in need of replacement due to normal wear and tear. The ability to clearly identify DOC staff is a safety concern in a correctional setting and new uniforms will provide the added benefit of promoting a professional image and boosting employee morale.

DOC and the Administration remain focused on improving partnerships in FY 2006 that will enable the Department to meet its core mission of providing a safe and secure facility for inmates during their period of incarceration. The FY 2006 budget supports a Memorandum of Understanding with the United States Marshals Service that allows DOC to transport inmates between the DC Jail and District and Superior Courts and to medical facilities. The Department of Corrections Reimbursement Fund, as the new Special Purpose Revenue funds will be called, is established under the Budget Support Act of 2005 for the deposit of all revenue derived from the reimbursement of services from the United States Marshals Service to the Department of Corrections.

Toward the same goal of providing a safe and secure facility for inmates during their period of incarceration, DOC is closely monitoring its own performance and seeing some improvement. In April 2004, DOC adopted the Association of State Correctional Administrators' (ASCA) definition for inmate-on-inmate and inmate-on-staff assault rates, allowing the agency to benchmark its performance against that of other jurisdictions. DOC has met its monthly target of 0.16 inmate-on-inmate assaults per 10,000 inmate days in three of five months during FY 2005 YTD, but is slightly above the target for the entire period. In February 2005, however, there were no reported inmate-on-inmate assaults. In the spirit of transparency, DOC has had less success with its measure of inmate-on-staff assault rates, to some degree as a result of the change in reporting requirements under the ASCA definition; my office is also tracking this measure closely and working with the Department to mitigate inmate violence. Our approach will continue in FY 2006.

In the same vein, DOC is participating in a multi-agency, community-based grant development process organized by the Department of Mental Health to obtain funding from the federal Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) under the Mental Health Transformation State Incentive Grant Program. If the grant is awarded, it will ensure that barriers are removed to providing better mental health services throughout the District, including to inmates who need them. As recently as this past Friday, representatives of my office joined other stakeholders to flesh out the substance of a grant application due in June. DOC is eager to provide input during the planning process and to build relationships that will develop into a formal mental health transformation working group down the road.

The FY 2006 capital budget for the Department of Corrections includes funding for two renovation projects at the DC Jail. The agency plans to continue its upgrade of the jail's fire

alarm and sprinkler system to bring the facility up to code and to protect inmates, staff, and visitors in the case of an evacuation. Inmate shower renovations in the housing blocks of the jail will also continue to replace major structural deficiencies, including 144 shower stalls, piping, and drains.

#### **D. Office of Unified Communications**

FY 2006 will mark the second year of operations for the Office of Unified Communications, but the first year for the agency in the new, state-of-the-art Unified Communications Center (UCC) scheduled to open in 2006. The new UCC building will consolidate emergency and non-emergency communications functions, personnel, equipment and systems for faster and more accurate public safety service delivery.

OUC's FY 2006 operating budget represents the final phase in the realignment of 911 and 311 funds historically supported by FireEMS and MPD prior to the unified agency's creation in FY 2005. The Mayor's budget also supports the civilianization of 28 FTEs in the telephone reporting unit, the transcription unit, and the Synchronized Operations Command Center (SOCC). The civilianization of these units will replace existing uniformed officers from MPD with civilian personnel, thus allowing MPD to place these officers in the community where their specialized training can be used to respond to crimes.

The greatest change in OUC's budget from FY 2005 to FY 2006 is associated with the transfer of personal services costs for 73 FTEs, including 7 new FTEs, from Local Funds to Special Purpose Revenue. This shift comprises the bulk of the agency's \$5.8 million Special Purpose Revenue fund increase. The additional revenues to support the transfer of FTEs out of Local Funds are generated by a proposed increase in the District's E-9-1-1 Fund, known as the Emergency and Non-Emergency Number Telephone Calling Systems Fund, as amended in the Budget Support Act of 2005.

The Mayor's proposal would level the user fee imposed upon all local wireline exchange carriers from \$0.62 per line per month (for Centrex and PBX wireline services) to \$1.25 per line per month, and from \$0.76 per line per month (for exchange access lines) to \$1.25 per line per month. At \$1.25, the District's wireline E-9-1-1 tax rate is still substantially lower than comparable urbanized and nearby capital region jurisdictions (see comparables on the following page). Moreover, this ensures that funding for our E-9-1-1 program keeps pace with technology and personnel cost increases over time.

### Regional and National Comparisons of Wireline E911 Fees

Pennsylvania	
Adams	\$ 1.50
Allegheny	\$ 0.74
Armstrong	\$ 1.50
Beaver	\$ 1.25
Bedford	\$ 1.50
Berks	\$ 1.25
Blair	\$ 1.25
Bradford	\$ 1.50
Bucks	\$ 1.00
Butler	\$ 1.25
Cambria	\$ 1.25
Cameron	\$ 1.50
Carbon	\$ 1.50
Centre	\$ 1.25
Chester	\$ 1.25
City of Allentown	\$ 1.25
City of Bethlehem	\$ 1.25
City of Pittsburgh	\$ 1.00
Clarion	\$ 1.50
Clearfield	\$ 1.50
Clinton	\$ 1.50
Columbia	\$ 1.50
Crawford	\$ 1.50
Cumberland	\$ 1.25
Dauphin	\$ 1.25
Delaware	\$ 1.00
Elk	\$ 1.50
Erie	\$ 1.25
Fayette	\$ 1.25
Franklin	\$ 1.24
Fulton	\$ 1.50
Greene	\$ 1.50
Huntingdon	\$ 1.50
Indiana	\$ 1.50
Jefferson	\$ 1.50
Juniata	\$ 1.50
Lackawanna	\$ 1.25
Lancaster	\$ 1.25
Lawrence	\$ 1.25
Lebanon	\$ 1.25
Lehigh	\$ 1.25
Luzerne	\$ 1.25
Lycoming	\$ 1.25
McKean	\$ 1.50
Mercer	\$ 1.25
Mifflin	\$ 1.50
Montgomery	\$ 1.00
Montour	\$ 1.50
Northampton	\$ 1.25
Northumberland	\$ 1.25
Perry	\$ 1.50
Philadelphia	\$ 1.00
Pike	\$ 1.50
Potter	\$ 1.50
Schuylkill	\$ 1.25
Snyder	\$ 1.50
Somerset	\$ 1.50
Sullivan	\$ 1.25
Susquehanna	\$ 1.50
Tioga	\$ 1.50
Union	\$ 1.25
Venango	\$ 1.50
Warren	\$ 1.50
Washington	\$ 1.25
Wayne	\$ 1.50
Westmoreland	\$ 1.25
Wyoming	\$ 1.50
York	\$ 1.25
<b>PA Average: \$ 1.34</b>	

Virginia	
<i>from www.co.arlington.va.us</i>	
Arlington County	\$ 2.50
City of Alexandria	\$ 1.25
City of Falls Church	\$ 1.75
City of Fairfax	\$ 1.63
Fairfax County	\$ 3.25
Loudon County	\$ 2.75
Prince William County	\$ 2.50
<b>Average (for selection):</b>	<b>\$ 2.23</b>

Maryland	
<i>from www.dpscs.state.md.us</i>	
Baltimore	\$ 1.00
Frederick	\$ 1.00
Howard	\$ 0.90
Montgomery	\$ 1.00
Prince George's	\$ 1.00
<b>Average (for selection):</b>	<b>\$ 0.98</b>

Other States (Selection)	
Illinois	\$1.25
Georgia	\$1.50
Alabama	\$1.70
Mississippi	\$2.00 business rate
<b>Average (for selection):</b>	<b>\$ 1.61</b>

<b>Overall Average:</b>	<b>\$ 1.54</b>
<b>Avg of yellow rates</b>	<b>\$ 1.56</b>

District of Columbia	
Centrex & PBX wirelines	\$ 0.62
Exchange access lines	\$ 0.76

Based on the above average of \$1.54 per wireline subscriber per month, and the fact that many of the listed jurisdictions are not as urbanized as the District of Columbia, the District can justify a wireline rate of at least \$1.54 per subscriber per month for all wireline services.



I also want to draw your attention to the enhanced suite of performance measures and associated targets that are published in the FY 2006 budget book. OUC recently completed the process of formalizing their performance measures, in consultation with my office and the Office of the City Administrator, by carrying forward some measures formerly reported by FireEMS and MPD, adopting new measures to reflect the agency's centralized responsibilities for 911, 311, and 727-1000 service, and by increasing some targets to demonstrate the agency's commitment to providing faster and more accurate call-taking and dispatching services to residents and visitors.

As Director Mike Latessa will report to you Thursday, all indications are that construction on the Unified Communications Center (UCC) is on schedule for completion by the end of calendar year 2005. Mr. Latessa is currently drafting a comprehensive plan for moving the agency to the new facility while maintaining optimum service coverage; I have asked him to deliver this report to me no later than July 1, 2005, for my review. Occupancy of the UCC will be phased-in, starting with the Public Safety Communications Center (E-9-1-1 and 311) in February 2006, followed by the Mayor's Citywide Call Center (727-1000) in March 2006, and DCEMA in April 2006.

#### **E. Emergency Management Agency**

A key component to preparing District residents and employees for emergencies is effective notification. EMA has made significant progress in this area through the launch in 2004 of AlertDC, the District's citizen notification system. EMA can alert citizens via text and voice alerts, as well as through the Emergency Information Center (EIC) website and the Emergency Alert System. I am pleased to announce that the EIC website recently won the Public Technology Institute's 2004 Solutions Award in the Public Safety category.

Through the efforts of the Preparedness and Protection program, EMA has trained over 2,000 District employees in emergency preparedness skills, including ninety percent of the FireEMS Special Operations Division who have become certified as hazardous materials technicians. A major priority for EMA in FY 2006 will be to train 600 District employees in the National Incident Management System (NIMS) and the National Response Plan. EMA also plans to develop a multi-course emergency liaison curriculum and implement certification standards.

#### **F. Office of the Chief Medical Examiner**

Under the leadership of Chief Medical Examiner Marie Pierre-Louis, the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner has made great strides since October 2003 in improving its operations and management of agency staff while ultimately working towards accreditation by the National Association of Medical Examiners. Among its achievements during FY 2004 is the 39 percent reduction in the backlog of autopsy reports by the end of FY 2004, the increase of its full-time staff by 33%, from 48 to 64 personnel, the implementation of new health and safety programs for employees, and the development of its first Policies and Procedures Manual and Mass Fatality Plan.

Additionally, OCME is moving forward in developing state-of-the-art-facilities as a partner in the proposed Consolidated Forensic and Public Health Laboratory with the

Metropolitan Police Department crime lab and the Department of Health Public Health lab. Phase I of the development of the Consolidated Forensic and Public Health Laboratory was launched in February 2005 and is expected to continue through August 2005. The Office of Property Management is leading site selection and facility programming analyses through a steering committee, which I chair, comprised of representatives of the three user agencies. The District is continuing its commitment to this project with a proposed FY 2006 capital allocation of \$914,000 to supplement the \$11.5 million in existing federal and District funds. We last estimated the cost of the Consolidated Lab in 2001; this estimate totaled \$75 million. We will update the estimate at the end of August 2005, following the completion of site selection and programming. I would like to note that the Consolidated Lab has two distinct budgetary facets. The operating budget includes an operating 'agency', the Forensics Laboratory Technician Training Program, which houses MPD personnel assigned to the technician training program. There is also a capital Forensics Laboratory project for the construction of the new facility.

Returning to OCME, the Mayor has proposed for FY 2006 a budget that will permit OCME to achieve several goals, including establishing a workable fixed cost budget to correct historical funding problems; accommodating the transfer of operating costs from the capital Forensic Analysis Case Management System project; incorporating increased personal services costs due to the unionization of several positions; establishing a new administrative unit to coordinate its fatality review committees; and enhancing OCME's 24/7 operational response capacity and toxicology laboratory services. To further support the toxicology lab, the FY 2006 budget provides for funding to purchase specialized equipment.

The Mayor has submitted proposed legislation as part of the Budget Support Act of 2005 (BSA) to better serve the OCME fatality review administrative functions and to develop additional sources of revenue for the agency. Title III of the BSA, the "Office of Chief Medical Examiner Management Fund Amendment Act of 2005," would authorize the creation of a centralized administrative unit to coordinate the work of OCME's fatality review committees and the establishment of the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner Management Fund. This non-lapsing fund would provide additional resources for OCME personnel and non-personal expenditures, and would be financed through fees received for services provided by the agency.

I wanted to note that based on my request, the Child Fatality Review Committee has begun providing quarterly updates on the responsiveness of District agencies to the recommendations issued by the Committee. These updates will facilitate improved monitoring of agency responses.

## **II. Homeland Security**

In order to provide for more effective and cohesive oversight of Emergency Preparedness and Homeland Security activities, the federal Department of Homeland Security (DHS) requires that grants be funneled through a single State Administrative Agent (SAA). The Mayor of the District of Columbia has appointed the Deputy Mayor for Public Safety and Justice as the homeland security point of contact through which all grant monies must be administered. Additionally, the District was chosen as the Administrative Agent for grants awarded to the National Capital Region (NCR), made up of twelve jurisdictions within MD, VA and DC. This

role requires unprecedented cooperative efforts between the jurisdictions, and the creation of innovative processes for both managing and dispensing the grant funds.

There are seven grants for which my office, through the Office of Homeland Security, has had responsibility since FY 2003:

- Law Enforcement Terrorism Prevention Program (LETPP)
- Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG)
- Citizen Corps Program (CCP)
- Information Technology Evaluation Program (ITEP)
- Buffer Zone Protection Plan (BZPP)
- State Homeland Security Grant Program (SHSGP)
- Urban Areas Security Initiative (UASI)

The first six of these grants are targeted to the District of Columbia. The seventh grant, the UASI, is targeted to the twelve jurisdictions that make up the National Capital Region. The administration of these grants requires specialized knowledge in the area of Emergency Preparedness and Homeland Security, as well as the development of unique legal and procedural parameters.

These seven Department of Homeland Security grants total \$227 million for the District and surrounding region, of which \$53 million has been targeted directly to the District for enhancing emergency preparedness and response associated with terrorism. Working with all the members of the Mayor's Emergency Preparedness Council, my office has invested these grant dollars in equipment, training, planning and exercise to prevent, respond to, and recover from a terrorist attack. The following examples demonstrate how these grants are being spent to protect District residents and visitors.

- The Office of Homeland Security has invested \$6.4 million in our Fire and EMS Department. FEMS conducted Weapons of Mass Destruction Training for all members of the Department in the first quarter of this year. This operational level training provided the Department with the requisite knowledge to operate in or around the scene of a Weapons of Mass Destruction incident. Further, FEMS has invested in Urban Search and Rescue Equipment, a Hazardous Materials Unit, and equipment to staff a fleet of ready reserve apparatus. This fleet will provide the department the surge capacity to respond during a large-scale incident.
- The Office of Homeland Security has invested \$9 million in the Metropolitan Police Department. In line with the guidance from the Federal government and the threat analysis, the Metropolitan Police Department has increased its capabilities to respond to Improvised Explosive Devices and Weapons of Mass Destruction incidents. The Department has purchased personal protective equipment, detection equipment and command and control equipment. The Explosive Ordinance Division of the Department has received upgrades and supplemental equipment to ensure that the Department is able to respond to the threat of Improvised Explosive Devices.

- The Office of Homeland Security has invested \$3.9 million in the DC Emergency Management Agency for planning, training, and exercises. DCEMA has conducted a series of table top exercises throughout the District's neighborhoods and has bought an Emergency Credentialing System to maintain access at the perimeter of an incident. The agency has also deployed the AlertDC system, which is capable of delivering targeted, electronic messages to our citizens and visitors in the event of a disaster.
- Protective masks, totaling approximately \$800,000, have been purchased for our first responders and are stockpiled by the Department of Health.

As a result of our due diligence, more than 98% of the State Homeland Security Grant Program FY03 to FY04 grants have been obligated to our recipient agencies and we are currently in the process of obligating the FY05 State Homeland Security grants. In FY06, my office will continue to:

- Target opportunities that provide the ability to improve skills, build resources, and establish meaningful and effective partnerships, both internally within the District and with neighboring jurisdictions and Federal and private/public organizations;
- Demonstrate accountability related to grant funding and other legal, regulatory, and related obligations; as well as heighten the region's ability to track expenditures, resources, and data, which will aid in reporting against grant (and other types of) requirements;
- Aid leadership and front-line managers in strategic, policy, and operational decision-making, through enhanced access to better, more reliable information;
- Respond to inquiries from and be proactive in presenting information to Congress, the media, grant providers, partner organizations, citizens, and other involved and interested parties; and
- Enhance the overall readiness and capability to protect citizens, institutions, and property against risks posed by terrorism, natural disasters and emergencies, and technological incidents that could disrupt, impede, or threaten the safety and well-being of the broader metropolitan Washington community.

### **III. Victims Services**

We reached a major milestone in improving the District's provision of services to victims with the creation of the Office of Victims Services (OVS) in June 2004. OVS supports and coordinates the development and implementation of the District's comprehensive system of care for crime victims in the priority areas of capacity building, training, outreach and education, policies and procedures, and legislation. Additionally, OVS administers over forty victim-service related federal grants, including resources from the Crime Victim Assistance Fund. OVS recently completed its 2004 Annual Report that among its accomplishments details Victims Assistance Fund grants awarded for FY 2002 to 2005.

Since its establishment OVS has made significant progress in implementing action steps towards this comprehensive continuum of care for victims. These accomplishments include the implementation of a Coordinated Community Response for Homicide Survivors to identify needed resources and increase coordination among providers, and the funding of collaborative

development grants that will develop sustainability plans for areas such as emergency and transitional housing for victims and the creation of a Victim Service Center to provide community-based access to domestic violence, sexual assault, and homicide services through the co-location of services. OVS currently is working to release the request for funds for supporting existing programs, increase funding for the expansion of these programs, and develop new, critically needed services to victims of violent crime. During the current fiscal year, OVS will release \$15.8 million for these projects, many of which will receive three years of funding to enable new projects to develop and create sustainability for these services.

Support services for domestic violence victims are a critical priority area towards which OVS, with my support, is committing significant resources. In partnership with the Victims Services Planning Committee, OVS has developed a plan that identifies the increase of transitional beds for domestic violence victims as a major priority. Through the guidance of this plan, OVS plans to commit \$3.5 million to increasing emergency and transitional beds. The goal is to support the purchase of shelter space that will provide an additional 100 to 150 beds to serve approximately 50 new families. OVS has awarded a planning grant to the House of Ruth to develop an implementation plan for the increase in beds. OVS and its partners all agree that additional shelter beds were needed; therefore this grant is intended to determine how many emergency versus transitional beds are needed. In addition, the planning grant is determining how to best address the need for confidential shelter locations, incorporate the installation of safety cameras and doors into renovations or building plans, address increased staffing needs for the new shelters, and garner the support of any Councilmember whose ward may host a shelter. The House of Ruth and a network of service providers are addressing each of these issues through the grant.

OVS is charged with administering federal grants through multiple victims-related funding streams. The FY 2006 proposed budget for these grants is summarized below. Additionally, in FY06 OVS will provide the funding for a contract with Howard University for MPD's annual victims survey.

<b>Grant/Special Purpose Fund</b>	<b>FY 2006 Budget Request</b>
Crime Victims Assistance Grant	\$1,100,000
Grants to Encourage Arrests	\$1,000,000
Stop Violence Against Women	\$1,110,000
Crime Victims Assistance Fund	\$17,161,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$20,371,00</b>

#### **IV. Justice Grants Administration**

The administration of federal justice grants for the District is the fourth Activity area in my office. Justice Grants Administration is the state administrative agency for justice grants from the United States Department of Justice. In FY 2006, the proposed grant budget is \$6.8 million in multiyear grant awards. In summary, the FY 2006 proposed budget contains the following grants:

<b>Revenue Source Code</b>	<b>Revenue Source Name</b>	<b>Budget Request</b>	<b>FTEs</b>
BF9002	BYRNE FORMULA GRANT	3,004,000	2.30
JA9001	JUVENILE ACCOUNTABILITY INCENTIVE	1,219,000	1.50
JJD401	TITLE V FORMULA GRANT	100,000	0.80
JJD902	TITLE II FORMULA GRANT	641,000	0.75
LL9001	LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT BLOCK	106,000	1.75
RST901	RESIDENTIAL SUBSTANCE ABUSE TREATM	639,000	0.95
VOT601	VIOLENT OFFENDERS INCARCERATION	1,050,000	0.75
	<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>\$6,759,000</b>	<b>8.8 FTEs</b>

As my predecessor Margret Kellems testified last year, we are continuing to implement improvements in grants administration to protect against future lapses and to ensure full compliance with federal and local grant rules. In 2004, JGA strengthened the competitive solicitation process by improving the notification of sub grant awards by thirty days over the 2003 Sub grant Award Program. During that year we also successfully recovered lapsed grants from prior years. JGA, in partnership with Office of Justice Programs Bureau of Justice Assistance, the Metropolitan Police Department, and the Office of the United States Attorney, negotiated in 2004 the return of lapsed Byrne and Local Law Enforcement Block Grants. A sign of the success of these reforms are the results of an audit by the firm of KPMG that found no deficiency in the grant activity selected for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2003. To plan the most effective use of our justice grant funds, we are working closely with the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council Grants Planning Committee. The Committee recently provided input into the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance 2005 grant application that was submitted last month.

To further enhance our administration of federal grants, we will soon develop performance measures to guide both the process of grants management and the performance of individual grant managers. These performance measures will apply to the administration of justice grants, victims services funds and homeland security dollars. We expect to convene a meeting to work out further details by the end of April.

## **V. Reentry**

As of FY 2006, reentry will no longer appear as an Activity under my oversight. The Office of the Deputy Mayor for Children, Youth and Elders now has oversight over this Activity, although Justice Grants Administration will continue as the state administrative agency for reentry grant funds. While reentry will no longer be under my oversight, we fully support the District's efforts to enable recently released serious and violent offenders to transition to productive, law-abiding lives.

The U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) awarded the District \$1,999,997 in 2002 for a performance period ending on June 30, 2005 in Serious and Violent Offenders Reentry Initiative (SVORI) funds, which JGA ultimately subgranted to the Department of Employment Services. DOJ awarded the District an additional \$16,725 in April 2004 through a competitive solicitation for travel to other state SVORI programs and reentry training for persons directly related to

program activities. In order to provide a sufficient timeframe for the completion of DOJ requirements and the implementation of the grant, the District requested a one-year extension to the performance period. DOJ granted the extension to the performance period on December 8, 2004 from June 30, 2005 to June 30, 2006. Before the District could spend the SVORI grant, the Department of Justice required us to develop Cross System Protocols to identify services provided by participating federal and District agencies, a Memorandum of Understanding guiding agency support of the new one-stop service center for ex-offenders, a work plan and a budget. These requirements were met through the direction of the Reentry Steering Committee, composed of Federal and District agencies that interact with adult and juvenile offenders.

Justice Grants Administration (JGA) subgranted \$1.8 million of the SVORI award to the Department of Employment Services (DOES) to launch Project Empowerment Plus (PEP), a one-stop service center that provides employment, housing, mental health and substance abuse services to a pre-selected group of recently released adult and juvenile offenders. These offenders were identified by Court Services and Offender Supervision Agency and the Department of Youth Rehabilitation Services as “serious” and “violent.” The PEP center opened in May 2004 at 609 H Street, N.E. To evaluate whether participants are benefiting from these services, Project Empowerment Plus tracks ex-offenders for one year after they complete Life Skills Training. As of March 2005, PEP is serving a total of 137 ex-offenders. Of that total, 125 participants have graduated from the Life Skills Training; PEP currently is tracking their progress. Twelve participants are currently enrolled in Life Skills Training.

Project Empowerment Plus reports monthly to DOES on performance measures that through which DOES can track the PEPs progress in achieving programmatic outcomes. Justice Grants Administration also collects data from PEP and associated agencies on the type and number of services rendered to ex-offenders. JGA reports this data to DOJ, which is currently conducting a national evaluation of SVORI programs and their impacts on the national incarceration and recidivism rate.

## **VI. Community Outreach / Constituent Services**

In addition to providing agency oversight and grants administration, one of our most critical functions is serving the District’s constituents. The Office of the Deputy Mayor for Public Safety and Justice manages issues from constituents and other stakeholders received by U.S. mail, walk-in, telephone, and email. The Constituent Services Manager accepts the issue and creates a unique tracking number. Once the issue is placed in the tracking system, it is routed to the appropriate point-of-contact and the progress of each issue is tracked until it is resolved. Of the over 208 items of correspondence received and resolved by this office so far in FY 2005, the issues have included requests for services, citizen reports of crime activity, responses to Councilmember inquiries, questions and concerns regarding emergency preparedness and requests to expedite resolutions of administrative matters. During FY 2004, the office received and resolved over 480 items.

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony. I am happy to answer any questions.